

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - May 12, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Lucas R. Zapata was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by Chief Judge Irma E. Gonzalez to serve 63 months in custody, based on Zapata's conviction for conspiracy to distribute cocaine. Judge Gonzalez also ordered that Zapata serve a 3-year term of supervised release following his release from prison.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce C. Smith, who prosecuted the case, Judge Gonzalez specifically found that Zapata, working in conjunction with others named in the indictment, engaged in a conspiracy to distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine. Zapata pled guilty on May 9, 2005, admitting that during the years of 2003 and 2004, he and others charged in the indictment sold a total of between 5 and 15 kilograms of cocaine to scores of customers in the North County beach communities of Del Mar and Encinitas. Some cocaine buyers were lower-level dealers, while others were consumers.

Previously, co-defendant Charles H. Gonzales, Jr. pled guilty on April 12, 2005, to conspiracy to distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine, and was sentenced on July 15, 2005, to 10 years in prison and 5 years of supervised release.

Co-defendant Oscar N. Escobedo pled guilty on May 26, 2005, to distribution of more than 500 grams of cocaine. He was sentenced on October 3, 2005, to 5 years in prison and 4 years of supervised release.

Co-defendant Anthony Gonzales pled guilty on June 13, 2005, to possession of heroin with intent to distribute and use of a firearm during a drug transaction. He was sentenced on September 6, 2005, to serve 93 months in prison and 3 years of supervised release.

DEFENDANT

Lucas R. Zapata

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Conspiracy to distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1) - (Count 1)
Maximum penalty is life in prison and a fine not to exceed \$4,000,000.

AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration
Narcotics Task Force
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement